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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE DEATH OF MISS HUBRECHT

It has been a severe shock and a real sorrow to all her old friends to learn of the death of Miss J. C. Van Lanschot Hubrecht of Holland.

Miss Hubrecht has been a leading figure for a number of years, not only in the nursing profession of which she was a member, but also in the wider woman's movement, where she has taken an earnest part. A woman of unusually broad and progressive views, her heart was set on the advancement of women, and her sympathies were only bounded by humanity. The chapter on Holland in the History of Nursing, which she helped to prepare, will tell what her life work was, for the higher education and state recognition of nurses. For several years she had devoted herself largely to the Woman Suffrage movement and had helped to edit *Jus. Suffragii*, the international journal.

Miss Hubrecht had intended coming to the United States after the war to work in our libraries over material which she had collected to write up into a history of nursing in Holland, but her brave spirit has been ill matched with a delicate physique. When we last saw her in Holland she was very ill with a chronic ailment.

We send to our Dutch sisters our sincere sympathy and loving recollections.

RECONSTRUCTION IN THE NURSING PROFESSION IN ENGLAND

Miss E. L. C. Eden, Honorary Adviser to the National Union of Trained Nurses, writes:

So much interest is being shown in the problems connected with the rebuilding of the nation that I feel sure this is not an inappropriate moment to draw your attention to an important movement in the organization of the nursing profession, which has been developing for a number of years. The essence of the movement makes it unostentatious and unclamorous for assistance, but that very fact will enlist the sympathy of those who believe in sound organization and self-respecting effort.

I need say nothing in these days about the immense importance to the community of the nursing profession and I merely allude to it in order to show that this being so, it is also a matter of real interest to the public that nurses should be organized on right lines. As stated in a recent publication, "All the proposals which are connected with the reorganization of public health must, for their efficient treatment, depend greatly upon the work of nurses."

An upward turning point comes in the history of a profession when its members realize that the responsibility for its development rests on their own

shoulders. Those who have studied the history of the medical profession know what a great influence for good was brought to bear when the rank and file of medical men banded themselves together into the British Medical Association. The keynote of such an organization is that the responsibility for a profession shall be shouldered by the profession itself, self-respect, self-government, self-development, self-support. The National Union of Trained Nurses has been quietly developing on these lines and is the only self-governing national society of nurses, for nurses, in Great Britain. It has had for a number of years a system of branch organizations, providing for post-graduate lectures, opportunities for discussion and practical demonstration. It assists its members with free legal and professional advice. It upholds the interests of nurses in Parliament and on public bodies. It runs an employment bureau for nurses which has proved to be of great value. Many nurses, members and non-members, have expressed their great appreciation of the friendly welcome and expert advice they receive at the Central Office, 46 Marsham Street, Westminster, London.

The Society has a carefully-thought-out democratic constitution and is managed entirely by members of the profession on the system of local representation on a central body. It is run on practical business lines for the benefit of nurses, but it has from the beginning always borne the good of the country in mind, thus avoiding one of the great pitfalls of similar organizations, a narrow professionalism.

The National Union of Trained Nurses is affiliated to the Royal British Nurses' Association, which is the only society of women possessing a Royal Charter, with the powers that result therefrom, and to the International Council of Nurses, which brings it into touch with nurses throughout the world.

The members of the public who understand the importance of professional development will be glad to realize the existence of so soundly organized a society for nurses and will doubtless give it their support, and nurses should join in large numbers to give it the strength necessary to carry out its reason for existence. The body which will administer the affairs connected with state registration must necessarily be one representing all nursing interests, both lay and professional, and a bill safeguarding this is ready to lay before Parliament. It is of the utmost importance that there should be a strong society such as the National Union of Trained Nurses, representing trained professional opinion, in existence, both whilst the bill is being considered and after the act comes into force, in order that the beneficent effect of a wide range of free opinion may be brought to bear on all matters affecting the profession.

All information can be procured from the Secretary, 46 Marsham Street, Westminster, S. W. I.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES IN HAITI

The first training school for nurses in the Republic of Haiti was established under the direction and control of the Public Health Service, which Service was provided for in the treaty of September, 1915, between the United States and Haiti. In December, 1916, Surgeon N. T. McLean, U. S. Navy, was appointed Sanitary Engineer of Haiti and plans for the organization of this service were begun.

The school was opened October 15, 1918, with an enrollment of

twenty-four pupils and with a waiting list of fifteen more who are eligible. The lines of instruction follow as nearly as possible the lines of standard American schools, with such changes as were necessary to meet local conditions. All instruction is given in French, that being the national language. The usual instruction will be given in medical and surgical nursing, operating-room technic, dietetics, children's diseases, and a special course of study of nursing in tropical diseases. At the completion of the course of two years a diploma will be given.

The practical experience will be obtained in the wards of the City General Hospital, which has a daily general average of more than 300 patients. There will also be instruction in social service in connection with an out-patient dispensary located in one of the poorer sections of the city.

THE CONTROL OF CANCER

The main facts regarding cancer are well known to medical men. It is a disease without a specific remedy. It is neither contagious nor hereditary but selects its victims in an apparently lawless and erratic manner but following an indefinite law by which the most civilized races are the most liable to its ravages and if we can rely upon mortality statistics it is increasing at an alarming rate in all civilized countries.

Of course there are some tumors that begin in the internal organs and run their inexorable course with nothing to be done but to accept the inevitable. These cases are in the minority but speaking generally there is a precancerous stage to all cancers, a stage in which the growth is something else before it becomes a cancer and in this stage it is amenable to simple treatment or eradication.

The same principle holds elsewhere. In the uterus we usually have the history of an irritation from an old laceration manifest by a leucorrhea or an abnormal flow at or after the menopause. In the stomach cancer is preceded by a period of chronic indigestion that possibly could be cured if taken in time. And in the breast there is the lump which has perhaps been there a long time, painless and apparently harmless, but which increases almost imperceptibly until the full-grown cancer is formed.

In all these cases there are warnings of approaching trouble if rightly understood. Unfortunately the warning is not pain. If it were there would be no great cancer problem, but warnings there are and clear and definite enough if they are but heeded.

Statistics from the large hospitals show that the average time from the discovery of the cancer by the patient until competent advice is sought is one year with men greater offenders than women and this seems to hold in other countries besides our own.

With our present cancer situation it would seem theoretically that the control of cancer might be a simple affair. We have but to eliminate the year of waiting after the cancer is discovered and heed the early warning.—By George R. White, M.D., F.A.C.S.